

**Town of Chester
Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, April 22, 2024
Municipal Complex
Draft Minutes**

I. Preliminaries

1.1 Call to Order

Chairperson Dircks called the meeting to order for the Town of Chester Recreation Commission at 6:04 pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Members present:

Kathryn Dircks, Chair
Marie Davies
Sandy Wright

Members absent:

Mark Desiderio
Dana Theokas, Selectboard Liaison

Staff present:

Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director

II. Approval of Minutes

The Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes from the February 12, 2024, meeting. Ms. Davies moved to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Reports

3.1 Recreation Financial Report

Director Reishus reported that the Recreation budget has been finalized for Town Meeting, which is on May 16th. The Town Reports for both Recreation and the Town Fair Committee have been completed.

Replacing the Buck-A-Bout seesaw at the Wason Pond playground will cost \$3,928.58. They also have a Four Seat Buck-A-Bout which will cost \$5,135.01. There are funds in the budget under Wason Pond playground (\$500) and others that could be used toward purchasing a new one.

Ms. Davies moved to expend up to \$4,000 from the summer program line of the revolving account to replace the Buck-A-Bout at the Wason Pond playground. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (SHFAC)

Progress is being made on the first floor of the Farmhouse, to meet ADA compliance.

3.3 Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Commission (WPC&RC)

The portables have been dropped at Wason Pond: one ADA portable near the handicapped parking and one standard portable at the playground.

IV. Old Business

4.1 Recreation Programming

Director Reishus updated the Commission on Recreation programming:

Basketball: There were 150 players this basketball season. The middle-level teams did really well. She congratulated the 7/8 girls team for winning the championship for their division. The league wrap-up meeting will be held next week; it was canceled earlier due to the storm.

Futsal: There were approximately two dozen players for indoor futsal this winter, which targeted 4th through 8th graders. Coach O did a great job once again.

Boot Camp and Senior Fitness: These continue to be popular, with Boot Camp going on its sixth year and Senior Fitness the 16th.

Pickleball: Over 90 residents have come out to play since the indoor program started last year. The lines were painted earlier this month; pickleball participants paid for the entire cost of the project. The current pickleball times are Tuesday/Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Open Gym with Busche Academy: During February school vacation, the coaches and players from Busche Academy put on a skills/drills session. There was a great turnout and everyone had a lot of fun. Director Reishus hopes to collaborate with them more next season.

4.2 Recreation Events

SHF Winter Festival: Everyone who came out in the cold and wind appeared to have a good time. All groups involved want to keep the Winter Festival going. Working group sessions will begin again in November.

4.3 CIP/Impact Fees

Director Reishus reported that John Lighthall is waiting for Nichols Field to dry to complete the next phase of the drainage project. The Planning Board and Selectboard have released the Impact Fees for this project.

On the French Field (lower baseball fields, which are not part of the CIP project), the Chester Baseball and Softball Association (CBSA) has initiated a drainage project to assist with all of the water this season. This field is primarily used by CBSA and Chester Academy. Chester Recreation occasionally uses it for overflow for soccer, when needed. The Recreation Commission has agreed to put \$1,000 towards this project from the soccer program line of the Revolving Account.

V. New Business

5.1 Upcoming Programming

Women’s Strength & Stretch: This is a new fitness program similar to Boot Camp, but without the aerobic portion. A new session begins on Wednesday (4:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. class times) and is limited to 12 per class. Director Reishus noted the classes is almost full, and she just started advertising it last week.

Summer Program: The Summer Program will run from July 1 to August 9. The cost went up slightly, as additional days were added due to where the holiday falls. Director Reishus has been receiving applications for counselors and will start the interview process this week.

5.2 Upcoming Events

22nd Annual Kids Fishing Derby: The Derby will be held Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. The registration flyer has been completed. Director Reishus will request the permit from the state and place the order for the fish.

Chester Town Fair: The Town Fair will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024. The Town Fair Committee (with only two members) has decided to do away with vendors and only have food vendors. There are already three other vendor fairs within a three-week period around the time of the Town Fair. She explained having vendors also creates a lot of extra work for the volunteers.

The current plan is to kick off the Fair with a parade at 2:30 p.m. They will seek sponsorships for the Midway and entertainment. Anyone sponsoring a ride, etc., will have the option to set up a booth next to their sponsorship. To meet the needs of the community groups, there will be a meet and greet set up directly after the parade for approximately an hour. Those groups can reserve a table and talk with the townsfolk. They hope to run the Midway from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., with performances every hour. The band will play from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

5.3 Any Other New Business

Happy Earth Day! Director Reishus thanked the Chester Conservation Commission and Moosewood Ecological, who came out this morning to explore the Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Area’s biodiversity. This was the second in the four-session series. The first was at Spring Hill Farm, during the Winter Festival.

VI. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Davies moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Beth Haggeli
Recording Secretary*